

Week Ending Friday, June 27, 2003

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Report on United  
States Individuals Involved in the  
Antinarcotics Campaign in Colombia**

*June 20, 2003*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Consistent with section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the “Act”), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106–246, I am submitting a report prepared by my Administration that provides “the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia.”

This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of May 13, 2003, the end of this reporting period, there were 358 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 308 U.S. civilians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia. This report further indicates that during March, April, and May 2003, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Remarks at a Bush-Cheney  
Reception in Greensboro, Georgia**

*June 20, 2003*

**The President.** Thank you all very much. Thanks a lot for coming out tonight. So I’m walking up on the stage, and Saxby says, “If you keep it short, we might be able to get a round of golf in.” [*Laughter*]

I want to thank you all for being here. I came without my wife, unfortunately.

**Audience members.** Aaahh.

**The President.** I know it. There’s a lot of good, discerning people out here in the crowd who understand who the real star of our family is. She was in Chattanooga today working. You drew the short straw. [*Laughter*] But I can’t tell you how proud I am of the job she is doing. She is a fabulous First Lady for our country, and she sends her best and her thanks.

Standing up on the stage here with Sonny and Saxby reminded me about what it means to offer a hopeful and optimistic vision, because that’s precisely what we did last fall. In this State, we said, “If you elect these good people, you’ll get good government for everybody.” And thanks to your hard work and your efforts, you elected the first Republican Governor in 130 years. And he’s doing the job you expect him to do. He’s a straight shooter. He does in office what he said he would do.

And that’s the same with Saxby. I’ve got no stronger ally in the United States Senate than Saxby Chambliss, and I want to thank you all for sending him.

And thanks to your help, starting tonight, we’re going to build on what you did last fall and deliver a strong nationwide victory next fall. And I’m getting loosened up. [*Laughter*] I’m getting ready, but I’m going to have to count on you all to energize the grassroots, to make the phone calls, to put the signs in the yard, and to spread our message, which is a positive and hopeful message